



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Georgia

*Post Office Box 8970
Savannah, GA 31412
(912) 652-4422 / FAX (912) 652-4991*

*100 Bull Street
Savannah, GA 31401*

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 29, 2005

Contact: Edmund A. Booth, Jr.
First United States Attorney
(706) 724-0517

FORMER STATE SENATOR CHARLES WALKER
SENTENCED ON FEDERAL CONVICTIONS

Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that Charles W. Walker, Sr., former Georgia Senate Majority Leader from Augusta, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr. in the United States District Court in Augusta, Georgia. The sentencing followed guilty verdicts returned by a jury on June 3, 2005, after a two week trial on 127 counts including conspiracy, federal mail fraud and false charitable tax returns preparation. The jury also returned guilty verdicts against several companies owned by Walker, namely, The Walker Group, Inc., Georgia Personnel Services, Inc., and the Augusta Focus, Inc.

Judge Bowen sentenced Walker to serve 121 months in prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release. Walker was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$698,046.89, a fine of \$150,000.00, and a special assessment of \$12,700.00.

As to the corporate defendants, Judge Bowen sentenced the Augusta Focus, Inc. to pay restitution in the amount of \$212,700.77, a fine of \$10,000.00 and a special assessment of \$24,000.00. The Court ordered CWW Group, Inc. to pay restitution in the amount of \$306,028.77, a fine of \$10,000.00 and a special assessment of \$46,000.00. Georgia Personnel Services, Inc. was ordered to pay a fine of \$50,000.00 and a special assessment of \$11,200.00.

Wood praised the joint investigative efforts of Special Agent Joel Ozburn of the Internal

Revenue Service; Special Agents Tony Williamson, Pat Morgan, Clay Nix, and Maria Irizarri of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; and Special Agents Derek Edwards and John Parrish of the Federal Bureau of Investigation during this three year investigation in which more than 600 grand jury subpoenas were served and more than half a million documents were analyzed.

Wood also commended the fine work of the lead prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard H. Goolsby, and Assistant U. S. Attorneys Patricia Johnson and Stephen Marsh.

29-05